Date:        January 25, 2007

To:          Federal Agencies Serviced by the Austin Financial Center (AFC)

From:        Robert C. Mange
                Regional Director
                Austin Financial Center

Subject:     Connectivity to the Financial Management Service

This memorandum is a follow-up to our recent discussions. FMS has recently reviewed the telecommunications arrangements that we have with our customer agencies. The review was conducted to determine if the agency connections were adequate to continue operations at our back-up site at the Kansas City Financial Center. Agencies transmit their payment files to FMS either through the Secure Payment System (SPS) or through a direct network connection. **For agencies that only transmit via SPS, no action is required**. AFC learned that several agencies with network connectivity to FMS maintain only a single connection to FMS via the Hyattsville Regional Operations Center (HROC). In the event the HROC is unavailable, these agencies would be unable to submit payment files to FMS. Agencies with only a single connection to HROC should:

- Establish a back-up connection to the Kansas City Regional Operations Center (KROC). Some agencies with dual connections to HROC and KROC will require programming revisions to reroute their data files to the back-up site under these circumstances.

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**or**

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- Establish connectivity via the Private Internet Protocol (PIP) network. By using a PIP network connection, agencies will automatically have access to both HROC and KROC to submit payment files. PIP network connectivity provides agencies with a seamless and transparent rerouting of transmissions to the back-up site in the event that the primary operations center is unavailable. PIP connectivity will also prove beneficial to agencies because FMS will be decommissioning HROC in the future and replacing it with KROC as the primary processing site and the Bureau of Public Debt (BPD) as the backup. When this transition occurs, agencies with a PIP network connection will automatically gain access to the new primary and back-up operations centers. Agencies with direct connections to HROC and/or KROC will need to manually reconfigure their connection to the new primary processing site and establish a direct connection to the new backup site.

For more information about setting up for PIP or another direct-line connection, please contact Joseph Mendez at 202-874-7099 or joseph.mendez@fms.treas.gov. **Agencies should not proceed with changes to their respective FMS connections without first contacting Mr. Mendez.** If you have any other questions or concerns, please call the AFC Help Desk at 512-342-7300.